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ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Health Report
1959

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Members of the Council

(1959-1960)

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G. WILKINS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:

G. E. MALE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

L. A. PICKTHALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Clerks:

E. P. MOLYNEUX Mrs. M. S. J. KEMP

Public Health Department:

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Borehamwood
Telephone — ELStree 2491

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Elstree Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 19th Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1959.

Infectious Diseases

There have been no epidemics of serious significance. The figures for Tuberculosis show a slight rise this year—22 new cases compared with 18, 18, 13, 15 and 15 respectively in the years 1958 to 1954 inclusive. These figures do not include cases reported from Shenley Hospital. It is interesting to note that of the 22 new cases, 8 were members of two families. There were only 5 notifications of persons under the age of 25 years.

Care of the Elderly

One of the problems confronting a Medical Officer of Health is that of the elderly person living alone who is unable to look after himself and unwilling to accept help from others.

Three such cases were met during the year. One was a widow of 70 living alone in a derelict house, completely deaf, infirm and living the life of a recluse. All efforts to persuade her to enter hospital voluntarily failed and it became necessary to obtain an Order for her removal. After a few weeks in hospital, her general condition improved to such an extent that she was able to leave hospital and she is now leading a normal happy life as a tenant in a new Council flat. The Women's Voluntary Service provide her with two cooked dinners weekly and with daily visits from a Home Help, she is able to enjoy life again.

The other case was an elderly couple. The man was persuaded to enter hospital voluntarily and his wife was cared for by a friend outside the district.

It is, perhaps, a tribute to our way of life that such cases are encountered only rarely, and that when one does arise, facilities are available to deal with it.

General

Once again I am pleased to record my thanks to the Council for their support during the year and to the staff of the Public Health Department and officials generally for their willing help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. Winn Everett,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area		8,339 acres
Population, 1931 Census*		5,946
Population, 1951 Census		14,757
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1959		28,520
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1959) according to Rate Books	Elstree ..	6,789
	Shenley ..	471
	Ridge ..	73
Rateable Value (1st April, 1960)		£489,181
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1960)		£2,022

* Adjusted in respect of alteration of boundary in 1935.

VITAL STATISTICS	Total	M.	F.
Live Births	481	227	254
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ..	16·9		
Still-births	8	5	3
Still-births rate per 1,000 *live and still-births*	16·4		
Total *live and still-births*	489		
Infant deaths	8	5	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 *live births* ..	16.6		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 *live births—legitimate**	17·4		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 *live births—illegitimate*†	Nil		
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 *live births* (*first four weeks*)	10·4		
Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total *live births*) ..	8.3		
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total *live and still-births*)	24.5		
Illegitimate live births per cent of total *live births*	4·2		
Maternal deaths (*including abortion*) ..	Nil		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 *live and still-births*	Nil		

$$* \text{ Legitimate I.M.R.} = \frac{\text{Legitimate deaths under 1 year}}{\text{Legitimate live births}}$$

$$\dagger \text{ Illegitimate I.M.R.} = \frac{\text{Illegitimate deaths under 1 year}}{\text{Illegitimate live births}}$$

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths (all causes)	296	129	167

Death Rate: 10·4 per 1,000 *estimated average population.*
"Local" Death Rate excl. Shenley Hospital: 3·5 per 1,000 population.

The Comparability Factor (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the country as a whole) is given as 0.90 for births and 0.95 for deaths. The following table shows how the local birth and death rates compare with those given for Hertfordshire and for the whole country.

	Elstree R.D.C.	County of Hertford	England & Wales
Birth Rate	15.2*	16.26	16.5
Death Rate	9.9*	10.43	11.6

* Actual rate × Comparability Factor to give Standardised rate.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.
One Senior, one Deputy and one Additional Public Health Inspectors (All whole-time, all qualified Public Health Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors).
The Department is also responsible for the administration of the Council's housing accommodation.

The General Purposes and Finance Committee deal with all matters relating to Public Health. They meet on the second Monday in each month and receive the reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the Coppetts Wood Isolation Hospital, Muswell Hill. The ambulance for non-infectious cases, provided by the Herts County Council, is stationed at the Fire Station, Elstree Way, and is manned by the Herts Ambulance Brigade staff. If this service is not available, ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

(c) Nursing in the Home

The Borehamwood area has six whole-time Health Visitors, three District Nurses employed on general nursing, three midwives and one nurse employed part-time on general nursing.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Elstree Way, Borehamwood.	Ante-Natal: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 2 p.m. Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Infant Welfare: Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m. Family Planning: Fridays 2.15 to 3.15 p.m. Speech Therapy: Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 to 4.30 p.m. Ophthalmic: Wednesdays 1.30 to 4 p.m. Orthoptic: Mondays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 to 4 p.m. 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays of the month 9.30 to 12 noon. Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation: Fridays 10 to 11 a.m. School Dental Clinic: (Treatment by appointment only.) Orthodontic: Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
(ii) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Health Annexe, Greenacres School, Borehamwood.	Ante-Natal: Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m. Infant Welfare: Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m. Speech Therapy: (Treatment by appointment only.) School Dental Clinic: (Treatment by appointment only.)
(iii) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Health Annexe, Saffron Green School, Borehamwood.	Infant Welfare: Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m. School Dental Clinic: (Treatment by appointment only.) Speech Therapy: (Treatment by appointment only.)

(e) Hospitals

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.

Barnet Group (No. 5) Hospital Management Committee

Barnet General Hospital	General Hospital with complement of 461 beds, with the usual medical and surgical facilities. Regular consultative clinics are as follows: Ante-Natal, Dental, Dermatological, Chiropody, Ear, nose and throat, Geriatric, Gynaecological, Medical, Neurology, Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Physical medicine, Post-Natal, Psychiatric, Radiotherapy, Sub-Fertility (Males), Surgical, Tuberculosis
St. Stephens Hospital	Small general hospital with complement of 88 beds.
Victoria Hospital, Wood Street, Barnet.	Maternity Hospital with complement of 48 Maternity beds and 48 cots.
Clare Hall Hospital, South Mimms.	Chest Hospital with complement of 334 beds.
Elmbank Hospital, Arkley.	Female Geriatric unit with complement of 27 beds.

Mid Herts Group (No. 7) Hospital Management Committee

Child Guidance Clinic, Hill End, St. Albans.	Child Guidance service: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Patients seen by appointment only.)
St. Albans City Hospital, Osterhills Unit, Normandy Road, St. Albans	Venereal Diseases: Females: Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays 2 to 4 p.m. Males: Fridays 10 to 12 noon.
St. Albans City Hospital, Mid Herts Wing, Church Crescent, St. Albans.	Venereal Diseases: Attendances Males: Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

West Herts Group (No. 9) Hospital Management Committee

Bushey and District Hospital, Bushey.	General Hospital with complement of 39 beds.

Northern Group (No. 20) Hospital Management Committee

Coppetts Wood Hospital, London, N.20. (Telephone: TUDor 9792).	All cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Smallpox) are taken to this hospital. Bed complement 144.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1959 at a satisfactory standard in (*a*) quality and (*b*) quantity.
2. The Colne Valley Water Company are the suppliers and have provided the following information with regard to the sampling of the water supplies during the year:—
   549 samples of raw water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were variable.
   2,323 samples of supply water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory.
   449 samples of raw water were examined chemically. The results were variable.
   667 samples of supply water were examined chemically. The results were very satisfactory.
3. The water is not likely to be plumbo-solvent.
4. Of the 7,333 houses in the district:—
   (*a*) 7,329 are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house.
   (*b*) 3 by means of standpipes (Ridge Parish).
   (*c*) 1 isolated house has no piped water supply.

Rivers and Streams

A few cases of minor pollution of streams were investigated. Several ponds were treated with D.D.T. Insecticide as a precaution against the breeding of mosquitoes.

Closet Accommodation

With the exception of about 30 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages, all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water-closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into private sewage disposal systems, are connected to public sewers.

Public Cleansing

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping on the site of the disused sewage works at Medburn Farm, Elstree and at Moor Mills, Park Street, Nr. St. Albans.

Shops and Offices

Normal routine inspections were carried out at these premises during the year. No statutory action was taken.

Swimming Pools

There are no public swimming pools in the Elstree rural district.

Caravan Sites

(*a*) The number of sites in the area in use during 1959 was three. All are licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(*b*) 3 annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.

(*c*) Estimated maximum number of caravans stationed in the area at one time including holders of individual licences is 120. This would give a total population living in caravans in the district of approximately 320.

Clean Air

The Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air and is a constituent member of the London and Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Council; the Public Health Inspector represents the Hertfordshire Local Authorities on the Executive Committee of the Advisory Council.

The Council's Smoke Control Area No. 1 was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in December, 1959 and will come into operation on the 1st September, 1960.

The area comprises 260 acres and contains over 1,500 houses, 40 factories, 2 schools and several other buildings. Situated in the south-east part of the district, between the Barnet By Pass and Manor Way, the area adjoins the Barnet Urban District Smoke Control Area No. 1.

There has been excellent support for this proposed improvement, from industrialists, householders, fuel suppliers and others concerned and it is hoped that the area may be extended to include other parts of the district in future years.

Rodent Control

One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors. During the year, investigation was carried out at 225 properties for the purposes of rodent control; of these, 137 were found to be infested with rats and 49 infested with mice. These were subsequently treated by the local authority.

The Council operate a free service for domestic premises but a charge is made for rodent control treatment carried out to business and other premises.

HOUSING ACTS 1949-1954, HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1958 AND HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT 1959

Improvement Grants

During the year, 16 applications were received for grants towards the improvement of houses in the district. Of these, 14 applications were approved.

The total amount of the grants made was £1,856.

SECTION D

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tables give the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	54	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Measles	202	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—
Dysentery	10	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	7	—	—

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 & over	Age unknown	Totals
Scarlet Fever ..	1			1	5	33	12	1	1		54
Diphtheria											—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..									1		1
Erysipelas											—
Measles	12	23	30	26	37	71	1	1	1		202
Whooping Cough ..	1	1		1	2	1					6
Pneumonia					1				2		3
Dysentery			1	1		4	1		3		10
Poliomyelitis											—
Food Poisoning ..			1			1	2	1	2		7

Tuberculosis—*New cases and mortality during* 1959.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 ..		1	1					
5—14 ..	1	1						
15—24 ..		1						
25—44 ..	8							
45—64 ..	7							
65 and up ..	2							
Age unknown								
* TOTALS	18	3	1					

* Not including patients resident in Shenley Hospital.

Annual Report

of the

Public Health Inspector

INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

A total of 1,859 visits and inspections were made during the year to all types of premises. 273 inspections of food-preparing establishments were carried out.

57 Informal Notices were served during the year requiring the repair or remedy of defects.

Statutory Notices

Nature of Defects	Statute	No. of Notices Served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Nuisances	Section 93 Public Health Act, 1936	1	1
Smoke Nuisance ..	Clean Air Act, 1956	1	1
Drainage	Section 39 Public Health Act, 1936	4	4

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	1	–	–	67	275	–
Number inspected ..	1	–	–	67	275	–
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcases condemned	–	–	–	–	2	–
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	–	–	–	2	19	–
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	–	–	–	3·0	7·6	–
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	–	–	–	–	–	–
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	–	–	–	–	5	–
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	–	–	–	–	1·8	–
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	–	–	–	–	–	–
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	–	–	–	–	–	–
Generalised and totally condemned ..	–	–	–	–	–	–

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Milk and Dairies Regulations

There are six purveyors retailing milk throughout the district and the following table gives details of milk licences issued. The Rural District of Elstree is included in the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1951 which requires that all milk sold in this area is of a special designation viz. Pasteurised, Sterilised, or Tuberculin Tested.

No. of Licences issued	Sterilised	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Total
Dealers' Licences ..	11	9	6	26
Supplementary Licences	3	4	3	10

The following table gives particulars of samples taken during the year from purveyors within the district. All samples except one satisfied the prescribed tests as required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Total No. of Samples	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	Pasteurised
27	7	20

FOOD PREMISES

There are 189 premises in the district where food is prepared for sale, or sold, or offered or exposed for sale to the public; 273 inspections were made in enforcing the provisions of various legislation at present in force, including the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/56.

The following table gives a summary of the types of food premises in the area.

General provision shops	32	Meat shops	15
Confectioners (Sweets etc.)	19	Greengrocers	17
Confectioners (Bakers) ..	8	Fishmongers	5
Ice Cream Manufacturers	2	Bakehouses	4
Cafes and Restaurants ..	9	Factory Canteens ..	23
Building Site Canteens ..	2	School Canteens ..	18
Licensed Premises ..	20	Stalls	2
Chemists	6	Off Licences	6

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947 to 1951

Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, there are only two registrations in the district of premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and 42 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

11 samples were taken during the year of which two were from vendors trading ice-cream manufactured outside the district and the remainder from the manufacturers within the district. The results of the bacteriological examinations are as follows:—

Results			
Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
11	–	–	–

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

It will be seen that all the samples were Grade 1.

REGISTRATION—SECTION 16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Type of Premises		*Number Registered*
	Ice Cream	
Factory	Manufacture of Ice-Cream	1
Confectioners	Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
Confectioners	Sale and Storage only	29
Provision shops	Sale and Storage only	13
	Preserved Foods etc.	
Butchers' shops	Manufacture of Sausages	12
Butchers' shops	Preserving food	3
Fishmongers	Fish-frying	4

OVERCROWDING

In accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, I am pleased to report as follows:—

(a) the number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year together with the number of families and the number of persons dwelling therein: Nil

(b) the number of new cases of overcrowding reported: Nil

(c) the number of cases of overcrowding relieved and the number of persons concerned: Nil

(d) particulars of any case in which dwelling-houses in respect of which the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding have again become overcrowded: Nil

(e) any other particulars with respect to conditions in relation to overcrowding upon which he may consider it desirable to report or which the Minister may from time to time require: Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1959

Part 1 of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	4	1	—
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority..	85	49	2	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	4	2	—	—
TOTAL	98	55	3	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(*a*) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	—	—

Outworkers: Number of outworkers in district during the year was 14.

Nature of Work: Making of wearing apparel.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

In addition to general legislation automatically applicable to the district, the following are in force:—

STATUTES

Public Health Act, 1875	Section 154	10.3.1926
Public Health Act, 1875	Section 26	18.7.1928
Public Health Act, 1875	Section 160 (2)	13.12.1926
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890. Part III		
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923		
Public Health Act, 1925	Sections 13-21, 23-34	13.12.1926

Public Health Act, 1936:—

Urban powers in respect of Sections 41 (Elstree Parish), 46, 79 and 80 (Elstree Parish), 107, 108, 263, 264, 269.

BYELAWS

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures	6.12.1920
Houses let in lodgings	14.7.1923
Slaughterhouses	20.4.1926
Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools	1.6.1937
New Streets	1.4.1939
Buildings	28.12.1953
Fish Frying and Offensive Trades	1.9.1950
Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food	26.6.1950
Fouling of Footway by Dogs	1.6.1951